

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant has carefully studied the outstanding Office Action in the present application. The present response is intended to be fully responsive to all points of rejection raised by the Examiner and is believed to place the application in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application are respectfully requested.

The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.84(p)(5) because they do not include the following reference numbers mentioned in the description: 110, 112, 114. Applicant submits herewith an amended Fig. 1A including reference numbers 110, 112 and 114. No new matter has been added.

The allowability of claim 4 is noted with appreciation. Claim 4 has been rewritten in independent form, with a minor change in the wording of original claim 3 from which it depends, removing an erroneous reference to "two or more". Amended claim 4 is therefore deemed to be allowable.

Claims 10 and 11 stand rejected under 35 USC 112, first paragraph. Applicant expresses his appreciation to the Examiner for the Examiner's helpful comments. Based on these comments, claims 10 and 11 have been amended to specify that the instructions are obfuscating instructions. Claims 10 and 11 are therefore deemed to be allowable.

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9 and 12 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(a) as being anticipated by Granger et al (US 6,643,775). Claims 3 and 8 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Granger et al (US 6,643,775).

Granger et al describes the use of code obfuscation to inhibit generation of non-use-restricted versions of copy protected software applications. Granger et al does not show or suggest the use of an interrupt instruction for this purpose nor does it show or suggest the use of an interrupt instruction combined with a branch instruction, such as a jump instruction.

The examiner takes official notice that the use of an INT instruction is well known to those of skill in the art.

It is respectfully submitted that even if the use of an INT instruction is well known to those of skill in the art, this does not mean that it is known or obvious to use an INT

instruction combined with a branch instruction as claimed in claims 1 - 3, 5 - 9 and 12 for obfuscating computer program instructions upon disassembly.

It is respectfully submitted that, notwithstanding the Official Notice, the Examiner has cited no prior art to support the rejection of claims specifically reciting use of an interrupt instruction and accordingly, this rejection is without valid basis and should be withdrawn.

Claims 1, 9 and 12, being all of the independent claims herein, have all been amended to specifically recite that an interrupt instruction combined with a branch instruction is used for obfuscating computer program instructions upon disassembly. This recitation is neither shown nor suggested in the prior art. Accordingly, claims 1, 9 and 12, as well as the remaining claims, all of which depend ultimately from claim 1, and some of which have been amended, inter alia for clarity, are deemed to be allowable.

Applicant has carefully studied the remaining prior art of record cited herein and concludes that the invention as described and claimed in the present application is neither shown in nor suggested by any of the cited art, taken in any combination.

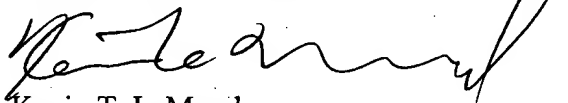
In view of the foregoing, all of the claims are deemed to be allowable. Favorable reconsideration and allowance of the application is respectfully requested.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 415-576-0200.

Respectfully submitted,



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60391395 v1

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PATENT

Amendments to the Drawings:

The attached sheet of drawings includes changes to Fig. 1A. This sheet replaces the original sheet including Fig. 1A.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet
Annotated Sheet Showing Changes



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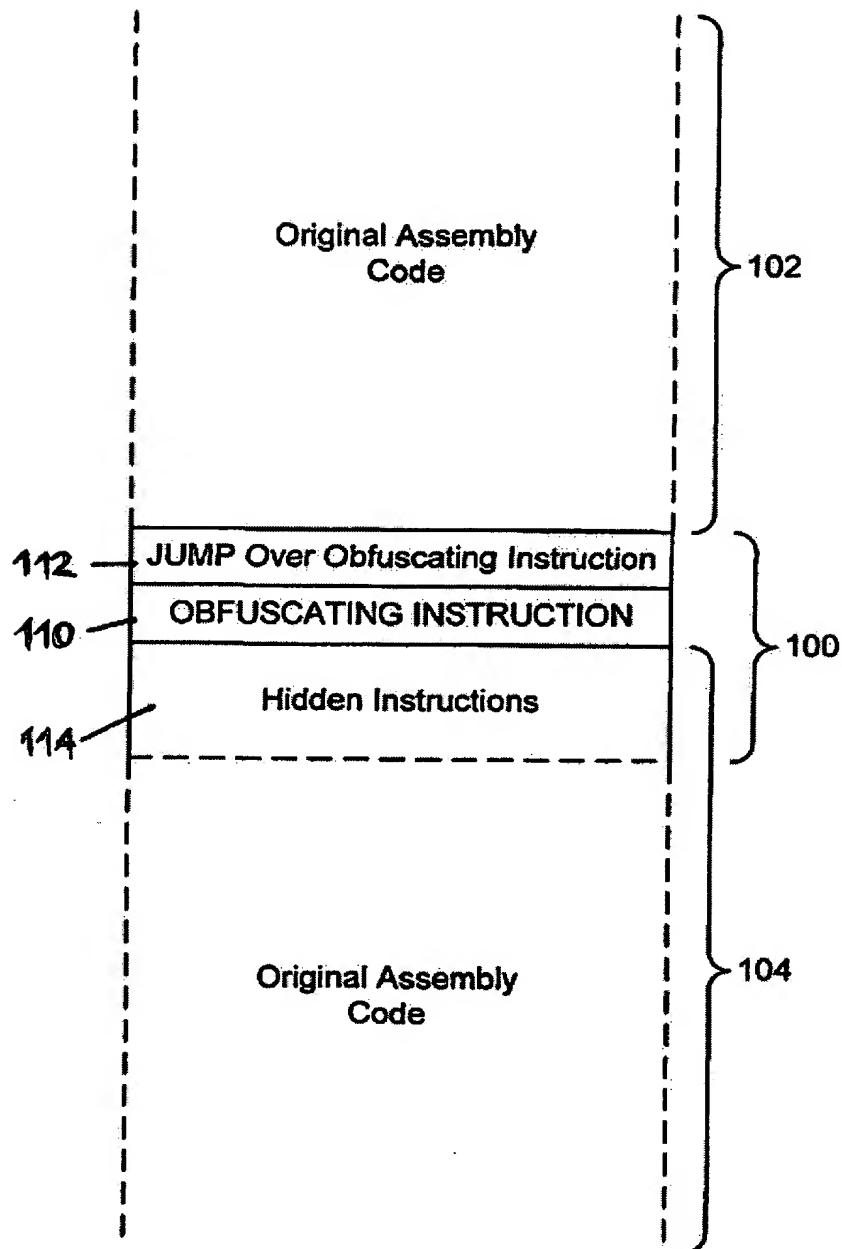


FIG. 1A.